THE

Theatrical Observer;

AND

Daily Bills of the Play.

"Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."—*Othello.*

No. 6989. *SATURDAY, May* 18. 1844 *Price* 1*d.*

"The Play's the thing."—Ask for *Thomas's Observer.*

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

There was a very full attendance at this theatre on Thursday evening last, for the benefit of Signor Giubilei, and, as the eminent talent, both vocal and instrumental, which assisted, did so gratuitously, it is to be hoped that the balance on the proper side will be a handsome one.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

The entertainments at this theatre to-night will commence with a comic drama, called *The Absentee,* followed by *A Cure for the Heart-Ache, Used Up,* and *A Kiss in the Dark.* On Saturday, the comedy of *Secrets worth Knowing* will be revived here; after which. a new original drama, by the author of *Grandfather Whitehead,* entitled *The Sempstress,* will be produced, the principal characters by Messrs. Strickland, Stuart, Buckstone, H. Holl, Howe, Miss P. Horton, and Miss Julia Bennett.

Princess's.—A new drama, in two acts, by Bayle Bernard, called *Blanche de Valmy,* will be brought out at this theatre on Wednesday evening next

Melodists.—Lord Saltoun, one of the vice-presidents of the Melodists' Club, will give a prize of the value of ten pounds, to be awarded in the course of the next season.

Singing at Sight.—We have often met with an imperfect version of the following anecdote, and we are inclined to think that few general readers are aware that its locality was Chester. We give it on the authority of Dr. Burney, in his "Sketch of the Life of Handel":—"When Handel went through Chester, in his way to Ireland, this year, 1741, I was at the public school in that city, and very well remember seeing him smoke a pipe over a dish of coffee, at the Exchange-coffee house; for, being extremely curious to see so extraordinary a man, I watched him narrowly as long as he remained in Chester, which on account of the wind being unfavorable for his embarkation at Parkgate, was several days. During this time he applied to Mr. Baker, the organist, my first music-master, to know whether there were any choirmen in the cathedral who could sing *at sight;* as he wished to prove some books that had been hastily transcribed by trying the choruses which he intended to perform in Ireland. Mr. Baker mentioned some of the most likely singers then in Chester, and among the rest, a printer of the name of Janson, who had a good bass voice, and was one of the best musicians in the choir. At this time, Harry Alcock, a good player, was the first violin at Chester, which was then a very musical place; for, besides public

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performances, Mr. Prebendary Prescott had a weekly concert, at which he was able to muster eighteen or twenty performers, gentlemen and professors. A time was fixed for the private rehearsal at the Golden Falcon, where Handel was quartered; but, alas; on trial of the chorus in the *Messiah*, "*And with his stripes we are healed*," poor Janson, after repeated attempts, failed so egregiously, that Handel let loose his great bear upon him; and after swearing in four or five languages, cried out in broken English, "You schauntrel! tit not you dell me dat you could sing at soite?"—"Yes, sir," says the printer, "and so I can; but not at *first sight*."

Fashionable Lounges.

To the Editor of The Theatrical Observer,

Dear Mr. Editor,—Just wish to say a word—beg pardon, hope I don't intrude—but will you excuse me—I have to mention that I've arranged so as to rub shoulders with my friends and the fashionable world at one or other of the *Grand Lounges* about town:—

Monday, stroll to Madame Tussaud's splendid Exhibition, Golden Corinthian Saloon, Baker-st, Portman-sq., to view *The Shrine of Napoleon, or Golden Chamber*, containing the Camp-Bed on which he died in exile—splendid rooms fitted for the purpose—the magnificent Car of the King of Rome—the Coronation Robes of the Emperor and Josephine—the original full-length Picture of Napoleon, by Lefevre—the celebrated Military Carriage, taken at Waterloo, &c.—crowded daily.

Tuesday, examine the extraordinary Model of Venice, at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, (open daily)—the most surprising work of art ever exhibited, containing a faithful copy of every object, however minute, that the interesting city of Venice presents—102 churches, 122 towers, 340 bridges, 135 large palaces, 927 smaller palaces, 471 canals, and 18,479 houses are represented in the model.—Open from 10 in the morning till 10 at night, with brilliant effects of sunshine produced by a novel artificial light of wonderful intensity.—Admission 1s.

Must inform your readers that there will be a Grand Bal Masque given at Covent Garden Theatre, on Monday, May 27th., under most distinguished patronage, and upon a scale of splendour hitherto unequalled. The orchestra will be composed of Mr. Weippert's celebrated band of seventy first-rate artistes, and for the better arrangement of the dances six masters of ceremony have been appointed. There will only be a limited number of tickets (price 10s. 6d.) issued.

Wednesday, I am to be found at the *Chinese Collection*, Hyde Park Corner. It consists of objects exclusively Chinese, comprising upwards of 50 figures as large as life, in their native costume, from the highest mandarin to the mechanic; and replete with articles illustrative of their manufactures, habits, and domestic arrangements. Also many thousand specimens, both in Natural History and Miscellaneous Curiosities.

Why should the people of England patronize Perring? Because he has every wish to improve the *heads* of the Nation. His Velvet Hats at 12s., his best Beavers at a Guinea, and Travelling Caps at 5s. 6d., *crown* half London.—Cecil House, 85, Strand, and 251, Regent Street.

Talk of Phrenology—if you wish to find a Pericranium fully developed, visit the Garrick's Head, Bow Street,—where you will find conviviality, risibility, and choice spirits fully displayed—the celebrated Judge and Jury every night—a select Concert—a Dinner, fit for the *élite*, 1s,—and Bed and Breakfast, half-a-crown—surprising!

Pa, (said young Paulina the other day) did Macbeth take some of Grimstone's Eye Snuff when he saw the *invisible* dagger? Quite different my dear says our doctor, for it takes away all ghostly ideas—cures the headach—dispels nervousness—is an antidote to deafness, and even makes the Queen's crown sit lightly on her head!—Grimstone's Eye Snuff Manufactury, 434, Oxford Street.

Quite surprised at my son Paul's appearance—looked "the very pink of fashion and the mould of form,"—told me he had been to Burch & Lucas, Tailors, 52, King William Street, City, where clothes can be purchased, elegant, excellent, and cheap,—must patronise them!

Saturday, I examine Miss Linwood's curious Needle Work, Leicester-square—lately added other beautiful specimens of her art.—But I intrude—beg pardon—Your's &c.—PAUL PRY.

Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

This Evening, (76th Time) a Grand Opera, in 3 acts, called The

Bohemian Girl.

Count Arnheim, (*Governor of Presberg*) Mr BORRANI,

Florestein, Mr HUDSON, Thaddeus, (*a proscribed Pole*) Mr HARRISON

Devilshoof, (*Chief of the Gipsy Tribe*) Mr H. HORNCASTLE,

Captain of the Guard, Mr HOWELL, Officer, Mr BINGE.

Arline, Miss RAINFORTH,

Buda, Mrs PAYNE, Queen of the Gipsies, Miss BETTS

After which, the grand Fairy Ballet, (in Three Acts) called The

Revolt of the Harem

The Scenery by the Messrs Grieve. The Properties, &c. by Mr Blamire.

Mahomet, (*King of Grenada*), Mr HOWELL,

Ismael.....(*Commander in Chief,*) ..... Monsieur SILVAIN,

Myssouf..(*Chief of the Eunuchs*)..Mr W. H. PAYNE,

Zeir.....(*Principal Page to the King.*).....Miss NEWCOMBE,

Pages, Eunuchs, Nobles, Priests, Guards, &c,

Zulma ..(*Betrothed to Ismael.*).. Mademoiselle LUCILE GRAHN,

Zelika..(*a Royal Slave*),...Mlle. CLARA WEBSTER,

Atargul..(*her Companion*)..Mlle. O'BRYAN,

Mina..(*Faithful Negress to Zulma,*)..Mrs W. H. PAYNE,

The Genius of the Harem..(*disguised as a Slave,*(..Mad. GIUBILEI,

Commander in Chief of the Female Army, Mlle. L. GRAHN,

Officers—Misses Clara Webster, O'Bryan, Carson, &c.

In Act I.--A Divertissement.

Introduction, by the Corps de Ballet. Grand Pas de Schall, by Miss C. Webster and Miss O'Bryan. Grand Pas de Bayadere, by Madlle. Lucile Grahn A Grand Pas de Trois, by Miss C. Webster, Madame Giubilei, and M. Silvain.

In Act II.--Grand Pas de Deux,

By Miss O'Bryan, and Madlle. Lucile Grahn. The Pas des Lances, and the Pas des Lyres.

In Ac III.—GRAND EVOLUTIONS of the FEMALE ARMY!

The following New Scenery has been painted by the Messrs. Grieve.

A Vast and Splendid Hall in the Palace of the Alhambra, opening upon the Court of Lyons. The Bath of the Harem! through which is seen a distant View of the City of Grenada, and the Embarkation on the River Xenil. A Pass in the Alpuxarras Mountains, with the Bivouac of the Female Army, changing to the Gardens of the Genius of the Harem.

Theatre Royal, Lyceum.

This Evening, a new original Drama, by R. B. Peake, called The

Three Wives of Madrid.

Count Vaseo, Mr CRAVEN, Isidore, Mr DIDDEAR,
Luca Moreno.... Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Geloso.. Mr EMERY, Diego.. Mr KEELEY,
Pablo.. Mr A. Wigan, Juan.. Mr Turner,
Laura, Wife to Moreno.. Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Beatrice, Wife to Geloso.. Miss WOOLGAR,
Camilla, Wife to Diego..... Mrs KEELEY,
Lucetta.. Mrs A. Wigan, Paquita.. Miss Turner.

After which a new Comic Drama, entitled The

LOVE BIRDS.

Prince Frederick.. Miss Fortescue,
Baron Hanslem, Mr R. Younge, Fritz, Mr F. Matthews,
The Duchess of Heirenstein.. Mrs Woollidge,
The Countess Adelaide.. Miss Fairbrother,
Marianne,.. Mrs Usher, Helen.... Miss Grove,
The Lady Blanche . Miss Ellen Chaplin,
Geraldine.... Miss Maison, Bertha.... Miss James.

To be followed by, an Apropos-Bagatelle, in One Act, called

POLKAMANIA

Mr Dorrington.. Mr F. MATTHEWS,
Laura.. Miss WOOLGAR, Susan.. Mrs KEELEY,
Jemmy.. Mr KEELEY.
Adolphus Merton..... Mr A. WIGAN.

To conclude with a Romantic Extravaganza called

OPEN SESAME!

FAIRY POLICE.

The Commissioner..... Mrs A. WIGAN,
The Inspector... Miss S. TURNER,

BAGDADIANS.

Ali Baba.. Mr F. MATHEWS, Ganem.. Miss E. CHAPLIN,
Cassim.. Mr TURNER, O'Mustapha.. Mr A. WIGAN,
Haroun.... Mr YARNOLD, Abdallah.... Miss FAIRBROTHER,
Hassarac.. Mr KEELEY,

IMMORALS.——Orchobrand.... Mr R. YOUNGE

THE WEAKER VESSELS.

Cogia.. ....Miss WOOLGAR, Zaine..... Mrs WOOLLIDGE,
Zelie.. Miss JAMES, Morgiana.. Mrs KEELEY.

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